

City and County Borough of Lincoln



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 4 3

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

City Health Department,
Lincoln.
July, 1944.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of the City during 1943.

This is my fourteenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health.

The Report is in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular 10/44, and, on account of war conditions is in the nature of an interim report only.

It is pleasing to report that all medical clinics, treatment centres and hospitals provided by the Council were maintained during the year and were of great assistance in looking after the health of the citizens. The Council are aware, however, that the number of beds provided for Maternity cases are inadequate and additional and more up-to-date hospital accommodation is needed in the City. The provision of hospital accommodation should receive high priority in post-war planning.

At the end of the year, of the child population below 15 years of age, 64.8% had been immunised against Diphtheria. Parents who have not, as yet followed the advice of the Ministry of Health or their own Health Department are urged in the interests of the health of their children to have them immunised against Diphtheria.

The importance of early diagnosis in the treatment of tuberculous patients and the examination of contacts of notified cases continued to be emphasised during the year. Adequate housing; adequate ventilation; adequate nourishment and the avoidance of financial and other worries are of great importance in maintaining the well being of tuberculous patients, and efforts are being continued to assist the patients as far as possible.

The work of the Venereal Diseases Clinics continued to be carried out under confidential conditions.

The vital statistics are given at the end of the report, and show no deterioration of the health of the City as compared with previous years.

During the year a good deal of the time of your Medical Officer of Health was, of necessity, occupied by the Casualty and Emergency Hospital Services.

In conclusion I wish to thank all Members of the Council for their keen interest in the various problems put before them in connection with the health of the City, and I take this opportunity to express my

appreciation of the good work accomplished by all the Staffs engaged in carrying out the work of the Health and Hospital Services and the Casualty Services.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

M. L. BERY,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(I) MEDICAL CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

It is pleasing to report that all medical clinics and treatment centres were available during 1943 as in previous years, and were of great assistance in looking after the health of Lincoln citizens.

The Clinics are held as follows :—

AT THE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, BEAUMONT FEE, LINCOLN.

Immunisation Clinic (Diphtheria).

9-30 a.m. to 10 a.m. each morning.

Tuberculosis Clinics.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays—Adults.

9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Tuesdays—Children.

Venereal Diseases Clinics.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays—Women.

9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Thursdays—Women.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays—Men.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays—Men.

AT THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, 34, NEWLAND, LINCOLN.

Infant Clinics.

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

By appointment—Mondays.

Birth Control Clinics.

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays.

Treatment by Ultra-Violet Rays.

Daily—By appointment.

Dental Clinics for Children under 5 years, and Pregnant and Nursing Mothers.

Six Sessions a week—By appointment.

AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC, BEAUMONT FEE, LINCOLN.

Medical Clinics.

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays.

Eye Clinics.

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.

Dental Clinics.

Daily—By appointment.

Orthopaedic Clinics.

Daily—By appointment.

Minor Ailment Clinics.

9 a.m. Each morning.

OTHER CLINICS.

Infant Clinics for Children below 5 years.

Monday—2 p.m. to 4 p.m. St. Helen's Hall, Skellingthorpe Road.

Thursday—2 p.m. to 4 p.m. St. Giles Methodist Church.

Minor Ailment Clinics for School Children.

9 a.m. each week-day at St. Giles Junior School.

9 a.m. each week-day at Sincil Bank Boys' School.

9 a.m. each week-day at Skellingthorpe Road School.

(2) HOSPITALS.

I. Provided by the Local Authority.

The following four hospitals were available during the year and the annual admissions in each were as follows :—

<i>Hospital.</i>	<i>Admissions during</i>	
	1943	1942
City Hospital and Sanatorium	449	356
City Maternity Home	291	243
Burton Road Institution	1108	912
Joint Smallpox Hospital	Nil.	Nil.

At the City Hospital and Sanatorium there is an X-ray apparatus which deals with all the work required under the Tuberculosis Scheme.

There was considerable difficulty experienced in obtaining suitable and adequate nursing and domestic staffs for the Hospitals generally, but, in spite of this, the work of the Hospitals continued to be efficiently carried on.

The Council is fully aware of the need for additional and more up-to-date hospital accommodation, and in post-war planning this should be given urgent attention.

II. Hospitals not wholly subsidised by the Local Authority.

County Hospital.

This is a voluntary general hospital which deals with patients from the City and the neighbouring County area.

(3) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological and the Area Laboratory for pathological work were available during 1943. These Laboratories also serve the neighbouring County Areas.

(4) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Two motor ambulances were stationed at the City Hospital and Sanatorium, and were available for infectious disease and tuberculous cases.

The two motor ambulances which were transferred during 1941 from the Police to the Civil Defence Services continued to be available during the year for all other cases.

The provision of an up-to-date Ambulance Station should be given consideration, in post-war planning.

(5) NURSING IN THE HOME.

The arrangements with the Lincoln District Nursing Association for the nursing of the patients in their homes were continued during the year. They attend cases of any nature with the exception of certain notifiable diseases.

The total number of visits paid by the Association was :—

	1944	1943
Tuberculosis Cases	150	480
Maternity and Child Welfare Cases	77	294
Public Assistance	5135	5381

No special nurses were employed for the nursing of infectious cases in the home.

(6) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

The scheme for the provision of domiciliary medical relief, under which the patient has free choice of doctor, was continued during the year.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of children fully immunised during 1943 was 799, out of these 545 were under 5 years of age and 254 were between 5 and 15 years of age.

At the end of the year, of the child population below 15 years of age, 64.8% had been immunised against Diphtheria.

Arrangements for immunising children at the Infant Welfare Clinics, at the City Health Department, at the School Clinic and at Schools to suit the convenience of parents were continued during the year.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
34	14	92	98	51

There was one death. A Lincoln child, who died outside the City.

SCARLET FEVER.

There was a marked increase in the number of notifications received as compared with the previous year.

Out of the 346 cases notified 173 were provided with Hospital treatment and 173 were treated at home.

The disease was generally mild in character.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
61	78	45	70	346

There was one death.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
3	26	10	11	5

There were 3 deaths.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
1	3	—	—	—

There was no death.

DYSENTERY.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
4	11	6	12	5

There was no death.

ACUTE POLIO-MYELITIS AND ACUTE POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
—	1	17	1	3

There was one death.

ERYSIPELAS.

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
5	10	13	11	13

There were no deaths.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
—	—	—	—	—

There were two deaths.

MALARIA.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
—	—	—	1	—

There were no deaths.

PNEUMONIA.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
97	93	59	76	118

The deaths attributed to this cause numbered 34.

SMALLPOX.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
—	—	—	—	—

There were no deaths.

CHICKENPOX.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
265	138	384	697	401

There were no deaths.

MEASLES.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Not Notifiable		718	42	182	703
There were no deaths.					

WHOOPING COUGH.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Not Notifiable		40	316	15	150
There were no deaths.					

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**GERMAN MEASLES.**

5 cases were brought to the notice of the Health Department as against 0 in 1942.

There were no deaths.

MUMPS.

7 cases were reported in 1943 as against 304 in 1942.

There were no deaths.

INFLUENZA.

The deaths directly attributed to Influenza were 22 as compared with 4 in 1942.

SCABIES.

In connection with school children the percentage of children suffering from scabies from 1933 to 1939 varied from 0.6% to 0.2%. This percentage rose to 1% during 1940, to 2.3% during 1941, to 4% during 1942 and 5.8% during 1943.

The use of the First Aid Posts for the treatment of scabies amongst children and adults was continued during 1943. The treatment was carried out by the personnel of the First Aid Posts under the supervision of the Public Health Medical Staff. Patients requiring in-patient treatment were admitted to the Burton Road Hospital.

In dealing with scabies efforts were made to have all the members of the family treated at the same time.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The importance of early diagnosis in the treatment of tuberculous patients and the examination of contacts of notified cases continued to be emphasised.

The number of primary notifications received during the year was 114; of these 78 were pulmonary and 36 non-pulmonary, as compared with 72 and 13 respectively in the previous year.

Of the 36 non-pulmonary notifications:—

- 7 were below 5 years of age,
- 10 were between 5 and 15 years,
- 5 were between 15 and 25 years,
- 10 were between 25 and 45 years,
- 3 were between 45 and 64 years and
- 1 was above 65 years of age.

There was a general decline in the number of tuberculosis notifications in the City previous to hostilities, but since 1940 there has been a tendency towards increase in the number of notifications received by the Department.

Adequate housing ; adequate ventilation ; adequate nourishment and the avoidance of financial or other worries is of great importance in the well-being of tuberculosis patients.

Every effort is being made by the Department to assist tuberculous patients.

The scheme outlined in the Ministry of Health's Memo. 266/T. for the payment of maintenance and other allowances to pulmonary tuberculosis patients was put into operation on 1st July, 1943. This has been greatly appreciated by the patients. By the end of the year, 25 patients had been assisted under the Scheme.

The number of primary notifications received during the last five years was :—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	
41	58	54	72	78	Pulmonary
12	19	22	13	36	Non-pulmonary
<hr/> 53	<hr/> 77	<hr/> 76	<hr/> 85	<hr/> 114	

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the last five years was :—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	
28	50	32	43	47	Pulmonary
11	10	9	3	9	Non-Pulmonary
<hr/> 39	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 46	<hr/> 56	

During the year 66 cases were admitted to the Lincoln Sanatorium and 15 cases were sent to Hospitals elsewhere.

At the end of the year 30 patients were undergoing treatment at the Lincoln Sanatorium and 6 were receiving treatment in Outside Institutions.

18 new cases were referred for treatment to the Light Clinic during the year.

In connection with the work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary, 155 sessions were held and the patients made 1,520 attendances, 47 visits were paid by the Medical Staff and 4,279 by the Tuberculosis Nurses to the homes of the patients and 901 X-ray examinations were carried out at the City Hospital and Sanatorium.

The number of patients on the Dispensary Register on the 31st December, 1943 was 312 as compared with 299 in 1942.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Venereal Diseases Scheme was on the same lines as described in my Report for 1938.

The number of new Lincoln patients who attended the Clinics for the first time during 1943 was 163, out of these 76 proved to be suffering from Venereal Diseases, 83 were not Venereal and in the case of 4 the diagnosis had not been completed at the end of the year.

The number of new cases of definite venereal diseases amongst patients domiciled in the City who came under treatment for the first time during the period of 5 years is given below :—

	<i>Syphilis.</i>	<i>Soft Chancre.</i>	<i>Gonorrhoea.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1939	18	—	36	54
1940	18	—	53	71
1941	7	1	47	55
1942	18	—	53	71
1943	21	—	55	76

It is of the utmost importance that patients should seek treatment as early as possible and should continue treatment until declared free of infection by the Medical Officers in Charge of the Clinics.

The Venereal Diseases Clinics continued to be conducted on confidential lines.

The bacteriological and pathological investigations in connection with Venereal Diseases continued to be carried out at the Grimsby Venereal Diseases Clinics.

Defence (General) Regulations—Regulation 33B.

Four persons were notified in 1943 on Form 1 to the Medical Officer of Health under 33B, but in one case only more than one Form was received.

Arrangements were made for two of the persons to attend the Clinic, but it was not possible to take action in respect of the remaining two persons as the information received was not complete.

CANCER.

There were 138 deaths from Cancer as compared with 107 in 1942.

The Radiotherapy Treatment Centre at the Scunthorpe War Memorial Hospital established on 15th July, 1942, by the Joint Committee of the three County Councils and the two County Boroughs of Lincolnshire, was available during the year.

The Lincoln County Hospital was approved by the Joint Committee from 1st June, 1943 for the treatment of Cancer cases other than by radiotherapy, and the Joint Committee accepted the responsibility for the cost of treatment at this Hospital.

At the Scunthorpe War Memorial Hospital 58 Lincoln patients received in-patient treatment and 13 out-patient treatment.

At the Lincoln County Hospital 51 Lincoln patients received in-patient treatment.

CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

The arrangements were on similar lines as in previous years.

On 31st December, 1943 there were 191 mental defectives under the care of the Council, of which 74 were in Institutions, 16 were on Licence, 22 under Guardianship, 29 under Statutory Supervision, 48 under Voluntary Supervision and 2 were evacuated from other areas.

The Public Health Medical Staff examined 4 cases for the purpose of Certification and 8 cases were either re-examined or were examined for special reports.

At the end of the year there were 26 Mental Defectives attending the Occupation Centre as against 25 at the commencement of the year.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Arrangements for the Prevention of Blindness were on similar lines as described in my Report for 1938.

Number of Blind Persons on Register on 1-1-43	..	112
Number of cases certified during the year	..	5
Number of cases from other areas during the year	..	2
Number of cases who died during the year	..	10
Number of cases de-certified during the year	..	1
Number remaining on Register on 31-12-43	..	108

There were 20 cases under observation at the beginning of the year ; 2 new cases came under observation and 2 died during the year. At the end of the year there were 20 cases still under observation.

WATER.

The chlorination of the water supply was continued during the year and the results of bacteriological examination of samples of water were satisfactory.

The water supply was constant and remained satisfactory in quality and quantity.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

During 1943 all measures in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare were continued on the same lines as in previous years.

CHILD WELFARE.

During the year 2,233 children were seen at the Infant Welfare Clinics and out of these 799 were under 1 year of age. The Health Visitors paid 8,004 visits in respect of children under 5 years, out of these 3,111 visits were to children under 1 year of age.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The number of persons who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year was 6 and the number of children under their care was 6.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The Municipal Midwives attended 439 domiciliary cases as midwives and 149 as Maternity Nurses. Medical Aid was summoned in 235 cases.

The number of cases attended under the Municipal Midwifery Service during the last 5 years was as follows :—

	<i>As Midwives.</i>	<i>As Maternity Nurses.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1943	439	149	588
1942	431	135	566
1941	472	123	595
1940	496	133	629
1939	444	138	582

The number of ante-natal examinations carried out at ante-natal clinic was 471.

MATERNITY HOME.

The Children's Nursery, Macaulay Drive, continued to be used as the City Maternity Home during 1943. The 14 beds provided are inadequate for the needs of the City and efforts should be made to provide additional maternity accommodation.

There were 291 women admitted to the Home during the year and medical aid was summoned in 67 cases.

The number of women admitted to the Maternity Home during the last 5 years was as follows :—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
246	202	192	243	291

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases were notified during the year as against two during 1942. The vision was unimpaired in each case.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

The number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the last five years was :—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
7	8	7	11	7

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were two deaths in the City which were considered maternal deaths, this gives the Maternal Mortality rate of 1.77 as compared with 1.95 for the previous year and 2.29 for England and Wales.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

Two War-Time Nurseries, each for 40 children, were available during the year.

The number of children on the Register at the end of the year was as follows :—

Newland War-Time Day Nursery	36
St. Giles War-Time Day Nursery	41

CIRCULAR 2831—Ministry of Health.

The Health Visitors made special efforts to assist the mothers in improving the general standard of cleanliness and habits during their visits to the homes and when they came in contact with the mothers at the Clinics.

Special visits were paid to the homes to see the children when this was necessary.

The Midwives and the other Nursing Staff also took opportunities to stress the importance of general cleanliness.

Supplies of 384—"Special" and of special combs were kept at the Welfare Centres to assist the mothers in suitable cases.

The standard of cleanliness remains generally satisfactory, but efforts are being continued as in previous years.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The work of the Sanitary Staff continued on the same lines as in 1942.

The total number of preliminary inspections was 5,075 and the total number of re-inspections was 3,828.

The above figures include the inspection of dwelling-houses and other premises, and the inspection of air raid shelters and evacuee billets.

Difficulty was experienced by owners of dwelling-houses in carrying out works required by notices issued under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

OVER-CROWDING.

The number of new cases of over-crowding reported to the Department was 19 and the number of cases where over-crowding had been abated was 24 during the year. At the end of the year there were 104 dwelling-houses over-crowded to the knowledge of the Department.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Keen supervision was maintained by the Sanitary Staff in connection with the supervision of food, including meat.

The number of specimens taken during the year under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 was 202, of which 48 proved to be adulterated. Suitable action was taken in each case.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Particular attention was given to Swimming Baths as in the previous year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Marriages Solemnised ..	789	847	674	695	502
Live Birth-rate	13.4	14.1	14.6	15.21	16.71
Still Birth-rate	0.41	0.59	0.53	0.64	0.57
Death Rate	13.4	14.6	12.9	12.21	13.4
Maternal Mortality Rate	2.29	4.2	0.99	1.95	1.77
Infant Mortality Rate ..	48	49	60	66	63

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, 1943.

	Birth rate per 1,000 population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population								Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still-Births	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales ..	16.5	0.51	12.1	—	—	.02	.00	.03	.03	.37	5.3	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ..	18.6	.63	14.2	—	—	.02	—	.03	.04	.36	7.9	58
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000—50,000 at Census, 1931)	19.4	.61	12.7	—	—	.02	.00	.03	.04	.37	4.4	46
London ..	15.8	.45	15.0	—	—	.02	.00	.03	.02	.27	10.4	58
LINCOLN ..	16.71	.57	13.4	—	—	—	.01	—	.01	.33	9.1	63

